

DVR Director's Message

August 2006

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Open House

Thanks to everyone who helped to make our Open House such as a resounding success. On Wednesday, August 16 we hosted 50-60 friends and colleagues from the community including our neighbors, partners and staff to our new "shared space" in Lacey. Working together with the Department of Services for the Blind, the DVR State Rehabilitation Council and the State Independent Living Council, the Open House provided a nice opportunity to network and socialize. Donna Vaughan, from Labor & Industries, won the door prize basket.

Recognizing Staff – 2006 Employee of the Year

It's an honor to share the news that **Louise Goodman** from North Seattle has been named DVR 2006 Employee of the Year. Many thanks for all your contributions, Louise!

Staff recognition is important at DVR. We are in the process of recognizing all the nominees for 2006 Employee of the Year. At the Area I in-service, we recognized the following staff by Unit for their outstanding contributions:

Kelso – Catherine Steady

Kent – Janice Lewis

Port Angeles – Kathleen Dodson & Lori Johnson

Puyallup – Patricia Sparks

SeaTac – Jean Fennessy

Silverdale – Kelly Townsend
Thurston WorkSource – Deborah Roberts
Vancouver Unit 1 – Enjelle Randall
Vancouver Unit 2 – Meredith Hardin
Special Team Recognition
 Kent Staff for Bus Pass Project

The following staff were recognized at the Area 2 in-service:

Bellevue – Lois Hall
Bellingham – Darcy Haughian
Everett – Suzanne Monteiro
Lynnwood – Doug Burkhalter
Mercer/Seattle – Renee Karickhoff
Mount Vernon – Beverly Mandahl
North Seattle – Louise Goodman
North Seattle – Bill Youngman
Smokey Point – Eric Potter

Next week, we will be recognizing staff nominated from Area 3 and State Office later in September. All staff nominations will be posted on the DVR Intranet site.

While the staff recognition process singles out individuals and teams, I would like to take this opportunity to personally express my thanks to each and every one of our staff. We are undergoing a significant change as an organization and I am continually aware of the contributions that each of us makes. I will again be visiting staff locally this Fall and look forward to connecting with each of you.

UW Project Management Opportunity

Eric Jones, staff member of the DVR Information Services Unit received great news this week. He learned he was one of two DSHS staff selected to participate in the UW Project Management class. 36 participant nominations from 17 agencies were considered for the 25 seats in this year's University of Washington Certificate Program in Project Management sponsored by the Department of Personnel. Nominations were reviewed based on the submission requirements (education + years of project management experience, expressed reason for wanting to participate, and potential benefit to nominee's agency), submission quality, and for representation across all submitting agencies. This is a nine month intensive certification training that will benefit DVR and Eric.

Governor's Economic and Workforce Development Conference

September 6-7 are the dates for the upcoming annual Governor's conference on economic and workforce development. DVR submitted two nominations for possible recognition by the Governor – the Clark County Workforce Partnership and the Olympia-based Enterprise for Equity. We were honored to have this opportunity to showcase the outstanding work being done by DVR and our workforce partners at the local level in promoting the employment of individuals with disabilities.

GAO Survey

The General Accountability Office has been analyzing the federal disability programs with a particular emphasis on the public vocational rehabilitation program. Washington DVR recently responded to a national GAO survey that is attempting to look at the factors that influence the outcomes for individuals with disabilities. We should hear more this Fall/Winter as the results are analyzed.

DVR Restructuring Update

We continue to move forward with our restructuring. As identified last month, we are conducting the series of in-service trainings in each of the three Areas – early reports of the energy and synergy of staff working together is as amazing as we had hoped!

We completed a national search for a Field Services Administrator but have not made a selection.

Interviews for the three Area Managers are underway and should be completed by early September. As selections are made, we will let staff know and will post the information on our Intranet and Internet sites.

A Success Story as it Unfolds

In the past few weeks, staff from the Spokane office shared with us the unfolding success story of a young woman named Logan. This summer, Logan participated in the DigiGirlz program at Microsoft. With the help and support of her DVR counselor, the DD program and her mom, she is getting ready to launch her own magazine. You will be hearing much more about this but for an early preview, check out her website: <http://www.loganmagazine.com/> We've also developed a newspaper story about Logan – [read all of about her!](#)

Other newsworthy stories and events?

We are partners in the success of more than 1700 stories each year. We are partnering daily with schools, businesses, community organizations and other governmental agencies. We know we will be even more successful in the upcoming year. If you have a customer with a story that we can promote, please let us know. The DSHS Communications team is interested in working with us and your local media to get the word out on the good work that we do.

Thank you –
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